

Announcement

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) will accept proposals for developing and administering a small grant program, encompassing multiple Salmon Recovery Regions or statewide in geographic scope. Proposals must be post marked no later than November 19, 2004 and will be acted on by the SRFB at its December 2-3, 2004 meeting.

Background

In the Fourth Grant Round, application for SRFB grants of \$50,000 or less accounted for 10% of all applicants. Only 14% of those were funded, compared to 41% of grants above \$50,000. SRFB staff has concluded that these statistics are to be expected. Sponsors of small projects are less likely to have the time or expertise to go through an intensive 10-month application and evaluation process. For those that do, it is difficult for a small project to compete with larger projects, since larger projects are more likely to provide greater benefits for the salmon.

Small projects offer both direct and indirect benefits to salmon. By offering a simple, streamlined application and evaluation process, a small grant program can be an effective way to accomplish small projects that often utilize local volunteer organizations. Besides directly benefiting salmon, these grants can energize local volunteer organizations and community leaders to invest in salmon recovery in their own communities.

On September 26, 2003, the SRFB provided a \$300,000 grant to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to develop and administer a pilot small grant program for habitat restoration and protection projects. NFWF matched the SRFB grant with an equal amount of federal funds and chose four locations to implement the pilot (North Olympic, Snohomish, Nooksack, Lower Columbia). A progress report on the pilot is available (see "For Additional Information" below).

Eligible Proposals

1. The proposed program should be statewide or should include one or more salmon recovery regions.
2. Projects funded through the proposed program should be consistent with lead entity strategies.
3. In addition to addressing priorities identified in lead entity strategies, projects should help build local community support for salmon recovery, including landowner participation and community volunteers.

4. Lead entities should be involved in the project approval process.
5. The program should leverage SRFB funds by bringing in other funding sources at the program, local and project levels.
6. The proposal should state the recommended maximum dollar limit for a single grant award under the program, and a recommended limit on total project cost. However, local partners should have the ability to establish a lower maximum grant size and, if desired, a limit on total project cost.
7. The proposed application and evaluation process should take no longer than four months.
8. Applications should have sufficient local and outside technical review.
9. The application forms and process should be easy for local program sponsors and project sponsors.
10. There should be adequate reporting to the SRFB, including progress reports, project information, program evaluation, and financial reports to ensure accountability.

Eligible Applicants

Nonprofit organizations, Native American tribes, and state and local agencies are eligible recipients of SRFB funds. Federal agencies are not eligible to be direct applicants but may be a partner with an eligible sponsor. Note that federal restrictions on using certain types of funds for match will need to be taken into consideration, depending on the federal agency's role with the SRFB grants.

Content of Proposal

Proposals do not need to be in any set format. However, they should address the requirements listed in "Eligible Proposals" (above) and the evaluation criteria (below). Proposals should not exceed seven pages in length.

Due Date of Proposals

Proposals must be postmarked no later than November 19, 2004.

Evaluation and Award Process

Proposals will be evaluated by a five to seven member team appointed by the IAC Director who will report the results of their evaluation to the SRFB. Applicants may be asked to make an in-person presentation of their proposal to the SRFB at its December 2-3, 2004 SRFB meeting. A final decision will be made at that meeting.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Geographic scope.
2. How priorities identified in lead entity strategies will be considered in the grant evaluation process.
3. How the program will help build local community support for salmon recovery, including landowner participation and community volunteers.
4. Degree and method of lead entity involvement.
5. Amount of matching funds and in-kind contributions to be provided by the applicant and by local participants.
6. The simplicity and length of the proposed application and evaluation process.
7. The proposed method of local and outside technical review.
8. The proposed method of reporting to the SRFB, including progress reports, program evaluation, and financial reports to ensure accountability.
9. The cost of administering the program.
10. The applicant's ability and capacity to administer the program, including financial management, technical support to participants, accounting and reporting.
11. The applicant's ability to work effectively with local groups in the areas encompassed by the proposal.

For Additional Information

For questions, contact Tammy Owings at 360-902-2637.

Proposals, post marked no later than November 19, 2004, should be sent to:

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